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Application No. 10/619,179

Docket No. 246472005100

AMENDMENTS**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system, comprising:
a multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis, comprising,
a top closure plate,
a bottom closure plate, and
a sliding core between the top and bottom closure plates, each closure plate including a pair of receiving openings or projections, and
an insertion instrument which comprises a handgrip and a gripping portion for engaging the top and bottom closure plates with corresponding retention projections or openings which, in order to hold the intervertebral endoprosthesis on the insertion instrument, are configured to engage with the corresponding receiving openings or projections,
the receiving openings being arranged in lateral side faces relative to an implanted position of the closure plates, and the pair of receiving openings assigned to at least one of the closure plates has an extended shape extending in a direction toward the other closure plate.
2. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1, wherein the receiving openings with an extended shape are in the form of a slit.
3. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an extended shape extend over the entire height of the assigned closure plate.
4. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an extended shape extend over part of the height of the sliding core.

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5. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an extended shape extend over the entire height of the sliding core.

6. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an extended shape narrow with increasing depth relative to a height of the multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis.

7. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein receiving openings assigned to the other closure plate has a round shape.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the retention projections are plates or pins.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A kit, comprising: Arrangement according to The
the multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2,
and further comprising different sizes of sliding cores of different thicknesses.

12. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion of the insertion instrument comprises a block with an abutment surface configured for bearing on the at least one of the closure plates, said block being connected to a force-receiving part on the insertion instrument for applying an insertion force to the intervertebral endoprosthesis.

13. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 12, wherein the block is arranged rigidly on the gripping portion.

14. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 13, wherein the block is secured to the gripping portion with a through-screw.

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15. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 13, wherein the block is secured to the gripping portion with a clamping screw.

16. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 12, 13, 14 or 15, further comprising a rod with a handle in the rear area of the handgrip arranged on the block.

17. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 16, wherein the handle is designed as a strike head.

18. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of system claim 13, 14[[,]] or 15 or 17, wherein the block is arranged on a jaw insert.

19-20. (Canceled).

21. (New) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of system claim 17, wherein the block is arranged on a jaw insert.